

Applicants: Howard J. Worman and Naoto Mamiya
Serial No.: 09/407,430
Filed : September 29, 1999
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REMARKS

Claims 57-78 were pending in the subject application and objected to by the Examiner in the June 17, 2003 Communication as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment applicants have canceled claims 57-78 and added new claims 79-100 directed to the same subject matter that was previously being recited in claims 44-49 and which was examined in the December 23, 2002 final Office Action.

In response to the Examiner's rejections in the December 23, 2002 Office Action, applicants point out that new claims 79-100 do not require the E_o protein to inhibit the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto a cell. Rather, new claims 79-100 recite that a compound found by a screen using the E_o protein inhibits the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto a cell, or prevents infection by hepatitis C. Accordingly, the rejections set forth in the December 23, 2002 Office Action which are based on the allegation that the E_o protein could not inhibit the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto a cell are moot.

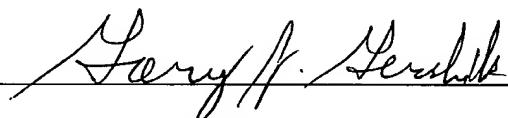
Indeed, the new claims are clearly enabled because applicants are specifically screening for, and using, those compounds which inhibit the binding of hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein to a cellular protein associated with hepatitis C virus attachment onto cells. Having specifically screened for such compounds, the administration of the compounds is trivial. Any compound found to inhibit the binding of hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein to a cellular protein associated with hepatitis C virus attachment in a screen, would be expected to inhibit similar attachment onto a cell with reasonable certainty.

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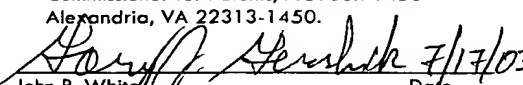
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
 John P. White Reg. No. 28,678 Gary J. Gershik Reg. No. 39,992	Date 7/17/03